

SECRET

Comments on publication of anti-Soviet Russians in World War II.

1. He agreed with points 1, 2, and 4 of attachment A, that is that such a document would be useful and helpful in psychological warfare.

2. He was not at all sure that publication would act as a deterrent on the aggressiveness of the Soviet government (3). In this connection he pointed out that the Soviet population would not see such a publication for it would be withheld from the public by the government. Moreover, such a book would inform the Soviet government of our recognition of its weaknesses in this respect, as a result of which the Soviet government might, rather than be deterred, be expected to eliminate those weaknesses. Dr. Hilger pointed out the analogy in the case of disaffected Ukrainians, Volga Germans, and of the three allegedly disloyal autonomous republics which were liquidated after the war.

3. In general, Dr. Hilger felt that the advantages of such a publication would outweigh the disadvantages.

4. He stressed that the following facts must be kept in mind:

a. The Soviet government is well aware of the dangers arising from a disaffected population in the event of war. It learned the lesson after seeing how baffled the Russian people were by the abrupt outbreak of war with Germany. Dr. Hilger recalled talking with Russians in Moscow on the day following Germany's declaration of war. They were so ill-prepared for that development, he reported, that they outspokenly lamented that the Soviet government must have blundered badly to find itself with such a war on its hands. The Soviet government of course took rapid steps to change that attitude of the Russian people and to throw the onus of responsibility and the allegation of perfidy upon the German war leaders.

b. With this bit of history in mind, he pointed out that the Soviets are already engaged in psychological warfare against the U.S. The propaganda organs continually play up the so-called war mongering and reactionary imperialism of the U.S. and drive home to the Russian people, including those disaffected elements, that they would expect only the same type of exploitation that characterized the German occupation during the last war.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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